

SHOPPING FOLK STILL ON WARPATH

Rich and Poor Fill Stores and Buy as Their Wealth Permits.

CLERKS WORK LIKE SOLDIERS

Great Problem Buyers Face Is How to Select Gifts They Want.

Richmond is Christmas mad. There is absolutely no other way of expressing it. The women are on the warpath, the men are taking the back trail, and the young ones are simply pulling themselves to sleep with prospects of Christmas Day.

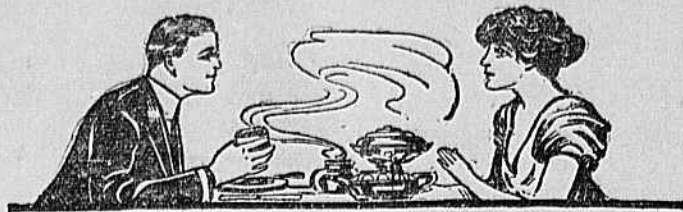
Pretty Susan is holding daily confabs with Beatrice, and Mary and Jane are hoping that what they will have to show is going to be a little bit nicer and better and prettier than the presents of their neighbors. Highfalutin Johns are vying with impecunious Jameses to see which can purchase the most favored place in the heart of a mutual lady friend. Households are debating whether it would not be more wise to furnish a ton of coal than a La Valliere. Wives are questioning the relative value of a smoking-jacket and a rug to cover the parlor floor.

It is one continual round of conjecturing and anticipating. Families sit opposite at the table and glance furtively first at this one and then at that, seeking to find just what will be the prize which the stocking is to contain. Each member of the household is regarded with suspicion and the general topic of gifts is tabooed with remarkable unanimity.

Feet Busy on Treadmill.
The shopping treadmill has caught all, and not a foot is quiet. Each one dines to the music of imaginary bells, and the tang in the air lends zest to the merry chase. The whirl of Santa's speeding chariot can already be heard, and no time is to be lost if his decrees are to be carried out. It is a maddening rush which meets the wayfarer who dares the blaze of the great white way. There is no time to haggle or bargain. Something must be bought and bought quickly.

The sand is running fast through the hour-glass, and pretty soon, unless everybody keeps time to the quick-step march, Christmas will be here and then will come the remorse of obligations unfulfilled.

Take some colossal kaleidoscope are the shopping centres. Every imaginable shade and color is in evidence. Femininity in all of its glory is out in force, with here and there a mere man, just to add the straight line necessary for the completion of the picture. But it is not a picture which yields. More like the moving picture variety, with a change every second. Nor are these shoppers without their peculiar qualities. The dialogue is resolute. It furnishes all manner of possibilities for the scribe who is there.



Blot Out the Memory
of breakfast spoiled by poor cooking—bread with poor leavening—muffins that didn't stand up as they "orter."



USE GOOD LUCK
This Baking Powder with its high leavening power is a mighty aid to better cooking.

At your grocer's.
The Southern Manufacturing Co.,
Richmond, Va.

to observe and record. Here is a sample:
"I do want to please him, he is such a dear boy. Do you think I would suit?" with a merry smile and an appeal to the "poor girl" who has been answering the same sort of questions day in and day out these past few days of Christmas was cast. It is a tale which is at the time accumulating the attention of the prospective purchaser. But the tale has allurement only for a moment.

How They Talk.
"O, isn't this cunning?" Now it's something new in unimpaired, but even the rain protector has charms but for a moment for the "dear girl" who is bent on buying something for the "dear fellow" is off like a will-o'-the-wisp to some new attraction. And so it goes from this to that, and from that to this, until the "poor girl" tired with the physical exertion of trying to be in two places at once simply stands still and the "dear girl" finally determines upon a two-bit necktie in a pretty box, all covered with holly and other Yuletide evidences.

From morning until night it continues and she will continue until the holiday buying is over, but no one leaves any store without buying something. That is the one and only compensation from the shopkeeper's standpoint. Something must be bought, and something is bought.

However, there is always the reverse side to the picture. Next to the subtle-coated individual with prosperity and wealth exuding from every hair on the wrapping of fur, is the individual with frayed sleeves and well-worn covering. She knows what she wants, because her wants are determined by the smallness of the allowance contained in the tiny purse, or more often, tied in the corner of her handkerchief. She doesn't haggle. She buys. It won't be much, but the kiddies at home will be pleased, and will have their Christmas gift. She adheres to the philosophy of Mrs. Wiggs: "You don't know how good turkey is if you never ate none." And the kids at home will think just as much of the little wagon or story book or other trinket as will the heir of the subtle-coated individual who has just invested in a mammoth toy aeroplane or engine which will really run.

Christmas Spirit Everywhere.
It's a great crowd, these Christmas purchasers. Sometimes it appears motley. But everybody is thoroughly impregnated with the Christmas spirit, and the Christmas spirit is a great leveller of persons and a great reducer of pretensions.

Rich, Stylish Furs For Holiday Gifts



For those who wish to give something lasting—exclusive—and expressive—something in medium or high priced furs—we offer a showing of furs that cannot be equalled in the entire South.

Beautiful Fur Sets, in all the season's appropriate skins.

Medium and High Grade Fur Coats, in all the approved styles.

They are all ready for your choosing.

CHAS. HAASE & SONS,

FURRIERS,

119 West Broad Street,

"Masonic Temple Block."

HERE IS A CHANCE FOR EVERYONE

\$120.00 Paid in CASH PREMIUMS

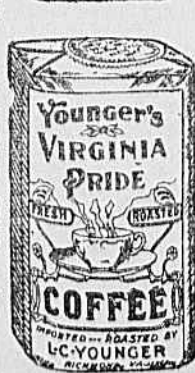


In addition to redeeming my WRITTEN SIGNATURES cut from YOUNGER'S SAGE COFFEE, I will receive a cash premium of \$120.00 paid in CASH PREMIUMS.

First largest number \$15.00
Second largest number \$12.00
Third largest number \$10.00
Fourth largest number \$8.00
Fifth largest number \$6.00
Sixth largest number \$5.00
Seventh largest number \$4.00
Eighth largest number \$3.00
Ninth largest number \$2.00
Tenth largest number \$1.00
Eleventh largest number \$1.00
Twelfth largest number \$1.00
Thirteenth largest number \$1.00
Fourteenth largest number \$1.00
Fifteenth largest number \$1.00

Reduce your Grocery Bill
L. C. YOUNGER

Importer and Coffee Roaster,
102-104 Virginia Street,
Richmond, Va.



USE GOOD LUCK
This Baking Powder with its high leavening power is a mighty aid to better cooking.

At your grocer's.
The Southern Manufacturing Co.,
Richmond, Va.

of social differences. At least, this is true in the buying places. When the Christmas rush is on, Mrs. Social-leader is no more recognized than is Mrs. Small-purse. They all look alike in a Christmas crowd. And they buy, only, buy.

The time is growing short, and the rush and crush increases in direct ratio with the decreasing hours remaining. Notwithstanding the great amount of purchasing which has been going on for weeks and weeks, there is no apparent diminishing of the crowd which must yet purchase. Sometimes three or four visits are required. Some one has been forgotten, or some one else has sent a present from whom no present was expected. The proper exchange must be made, and consequently another visit to the gift-bearing emporium is necessitated. O, it's a great time, and it is celebrated in a great way. If you don't have it, make a trip through any of the retail thoroughfares. Father and mother, sister and brother, best friend and best girl, all have their individual purchases to make, and they are making them.

If there are any in this great city who will not be remembered looks are unappealing, for appearances point to the conclusion that carloads upon carloads of gifts have been bought—enough to satisfy everybody.

FEE SYSTEM WILL BE INVESTIGATED

Committee Would Know What Commissioner and Collector Receive.

Sugar-coating was withdrawn from the pill handed to the City Hall janitors by the Council Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform last night. Tired of conditions as they have existed, the committee, composed of Messrs. H. B. Pollard, Jr., of the Finance Committee, who declared that the collector drew \$10,000 for acting as the city's paying teller last year, and that next year, following the annexation of Manchester, and the new assessment, he will draw from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

On the other hand, Captain Cunningham states that his emoluments have been overestimated, and that he has to employ deputies and has other expenses. Neither Mr. Pollard nor Captain Cunningham has yet been heard by the committee, although the ordinance has been pending several months. At its last regular meeting the committee deferred the matter to a special meeting. Chairman Unluf made several efforts to get a special meeting and the members were conspicuous by their absence.

Wants Information.
Last night's meeting was a regular one, and the committee decided that something must be done with the paper on which the Council was awaiting a report. Mr. Vanderlehr, of the committee, championed it, holding that the fees were excessive, and stated that he had been informed that in State and city fees combined, the office of Commissioner of the Revenue paid fees probably aggregating \$15,000 a year.

Mr. Vanderlehr said he believed that the citizens should know what amount all fee officers draw from public funds. At present there is no way of telling. He thought it should be made a matter of record in some accurate manner what clerks of courts, treasurers, collectors, commissioners and city agents receive from the city and State.

After it were made a matter of public record, then, if the citizens at large were satisfied with the amounts collected by certain favored officials, it would be up to them. He was not disposed to lead a fight on the fee system, but he thought the Council and the public informed what city officers draw from the public.

Will Hold Investigation.
In the end the whole matter, without hearing from either of the interested parties, was referred to a subcommittee consisting of Messrs. Vanderlehr, Moncreux and Pollock to investigate from available records and ascertain and report what are the probable annual fees from State and city of the Commissioner of Revenue, and from the city of the City Collector, who handles no State money. The report what changes, if any, should be made in existing ordinances, and to obtain from the officials affected a statement of the cost of maintaining their offices, salaries of deputies, and similar expenses.

Wants Pay Increased.
Chairman John Grimes made a plea for increasing the pay of employees of the Gas Works, asking a general average increase of one-fourth. Pay of many of the men, he stated, had not been increased in twenty-six years. The matter was referred to a subcommittee consisting of Messrs. Vanderlehr, Moncreux and Butler.

SWEETHEARTS WHO WERE REUNITED AT A THEATRE



New York, December 20.—The announcement yesterday of the wedding of Miss Stacia Walsh, a manure in the Hotel Cadillac, to Thomas H. Wells, Jr., whose father was an "Iron King" in Pittsburgh, revealed a story of a triumph of love over many obstacles.

For six years the two had been separated by the youth's parents. He had been born with that old golden spoon in his mouth, whereas the girl battled with the world for a living, and her only weapons were an orange stick and a few bits of steel and charcoal.

A month ago Wells, who only recently returned from Europe, where he had been studying, went to a matinee and sat in a box with friends. For a long time he had lost track of the girl he had loved in the days when he was just out of knee breeches. As his glance roved over the audience he saw her again, sitting with a girl friend at the rear of the house. He hurried from his box, and a few minutes afterward the two were outside the building, grasping each other's hands, looking into each other's eyes, and telling each other all about it—both at the same time.

AROUND THE HOTELS

"You may look for a Democrat in the next Senate from the Fifth District, now represented by a Republican," said A. H. Williams, of Wytheville, at Murphy's last night. "As a result of the fight put up by the Democrats of the Ninth District during the past summer and autumn this senatorial district is Democratic by 500 majority."

This may be counted as at least one good result of the candidacy of Henry C. Stuart, besides probable gains in legislative numbers, new heart has been put in the Democrats as to the election of county officers, and many Republicans are ready to be replaced as the result of November's elections by members of the opposite party.

Asked about the probable candidates for the Senate from the Fifth District, composed of the counties of Wythe, Blaine, Pulaski and Giles, Mr. Williams said that the name of Colonel S. S. Stimmerman, of Wythe, is frequently heard in this connection. Colonel Stimmerman formerly represented Wythe in the House of Delegates. He is a member of Governor Mann's staff, has large business interests, and is well known throughout the district.

The present representative in the Senate is A. P. Strother, of Giles, Pulaski and Giles together gave Stuart about 500 majority at the recent election, while Blaine went for Stimp by only thirty-seven and Wythe by only two.

R. C. L. Moncreux, the member of the House of Delegates from Stafford and King George, and C. R. Coleman, the member from Spotsylvania and Fredericksburg, came to Richmond last night. To-day they will see Governor Mann to arrange for their appointment. Judge R. H. L. Chichester, of Palmyra, to the judgeship of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Both men have further aspirations of their own. Mr. Coleman desires to succeed himself, while Mr. Moncreux is a candidate for the State Senate from the Thirtieth District to succeed Judge Frederick Wilmer Sims, who will retire. Both are without opposition so far.

Virginians at the Hotels.
Murphy's—R. D. Ivey, Virginia; W. C. Winston, Virginia; J. W. Orlinton, Petersburg; T. D. Berry, Bedford; J. W. Crawford, Strasburg; R. A. Warren, M. D. Hot Springs; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Dine, Jr., Ford; R. W. Vairo, McCloud; A. W. Myers, McCloud; A. H. Williams, Wytheville; George W. Chaney, Fredericksburg; E. H. Gilliam, Gretna; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Overby, Blackstone; Mrs. O. A. Blanton, Blackstone; Mrs. William Holloway, Port Royal; C. W. Whitley, Hampton; J. L. Pitts, Elk Hill; R. A. Hutcheson, Seven Pines; V. C. Ansell, Hanover; M. H. Huggins, Portsmouth; W. F. Durham, Jr., Hatteras; Dr. E. J. Wright, Fort Union; Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Mahoney and daughter, Portsmouth; Miss Kate O'Connell, Miss Margaret O'Connell, John E. Connell, Norfolk; R. C. L. Moncreux, Falmouth; C. R. Coleman, Marrye; T. S. Coleman, Spotsylvania; R. W. Healy, Gloucester; Mr. and Mrs. W. Wright, South Hill; Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Watts, Arvonia; Cecil F. Means, University of Virginia; C. A. Warm Springs; Dr. H. M. Sheaf, Fort Union; Leigh R. Freeman, Norfolk.

Davis—H. W. Malden, Tanworth; T. W. Crew, Wilson; F. C. Moultrap, Irwin; Mr. and Mrs. James Snead, Petersburg; Mr. and Mrs. B. H. White, Petersburg.

Lexington—J. R. Flippin, Cumberland; W. A. Stephenson, Danville; Mrs. M. Sanders, Norfolk; S. C. Lambeth, M. B. Lambeth, E. Lambeth, Gloucester; L. L. Grigg, Buckingham; George C. Wright, Warsaw; Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Platts, Virginia; H. W. Stinson, Franklin; H. B. Erwin, Staunton.

Stump's—P. W. Winter, Virginia; E. W. Cole, Virginia; E. E. Spatnik, Lawrenceville; W. O. Steger, Shores; H. K. Fox, Virginia.

Park-James Gordon, Alexandria; P. B. Wood, Clifton Forge; L. M. Robinson, Virginia.

Richmond—Mr. and Mrs. W. King Davis, Virginia; P. C. Gilliam, Lynchburg; E. C. Gilliam, Virginia G. A. Stone, Ordensburg; L. W. Butler, Portsmouth; W. N. Key, Bodan; J. P. C. Sawyer, Norfolk; John S. Barbour, Fairfax; C. J. Rixey, Jr., Culpeper; B. S. Hooper, Petersburg; A. L. Fowles, South Boston; W. P. Wash, Roanoke.

A GENUINE SURETY BOND GUARANTEE PACKED INSIDE EACH ROLL OF CONGO NEVER LEAK ROOFING

Congo is the only Ready Roofing carrying the National Surety Co.'s bond. It carries with it terms and conditions that make it especially attractive to anyone who must consider the roofing question.

For 10 years you can rest easy about your roofs if covered with 3-ply Congo, and we know that it is probable you will get even longer service out of it.

Hopkins Furniture Co.,
Richmond, Va.

The Surety Company is issuing these bonds, and back of them is their two million dollars of assets. It is a matter of keen satisfaction to us that they were willing to stand behind Congo Roofing. You are immune from any responsibility other than giving the roofing ordinary care. Write today for samples of Congo and full information.

Remember, that with every roll of Congo you get a genuine Surety Bond.

FIRE AT THOMASVILLE BURNS FURNITURE PLANT

Loss Is Estimated at \$200,000—Fully Three Hundred Men Will Be Thrown Out of Work.

Greensboro, N. C., December 20.—Fire of unknown origin, at Thomasville to-night, destroyed the main plant of the Cramer Furniture Company, together with storage, finishing and shipping rooms, dry kilns and 200,000 feet of lumber, entailing a loss conservatively estimated at \$200,000.

The fire was discovered shortly after the plant closed down for the day, but owing to a high wind and inadequate fire fighting equipment, the flames spread rapidly, and it required four hours' fighting of volunteer bucket brigades to save adjacent property.

The plant destroyed manufactured chairs and tables, and was owned by Stuart W. Cramer, of Charlotte, J. T. Cramer and John Myers, of Thomasville, and the Whiting Company, of Winton, Mass. The company employed 300 men, and fully 300 of this number will be thrown out of employment for several months. The plant was insured for a little more than one-third the total loss.

More money, owned and handled by J. M. Ament of Hickory, W. Tenn., was second.

Lad Moore, a pointer, owned by Seth Moore, of Hudsonville, Ill., and handled by E. V. Lockhart, was third. Birds were again plentiful, a high wind was blowing and it was very cold on the field.

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